

WARREN
MAGAZINE



FAMOUS
MONSTERS
#116

MAY 2015

FAMOUS

MONSTERS

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OF FILMLAND



THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT • BIG FM CONVENTION PHOTO STORY

BE WARRENED!



The Monster facing you is None Other Than JAMES WARREN, Publisher of This, the World's First & Foremost Filmmonster Magazine. Thousands fainted at his Public Appearance at the FILMONSTER CONVENTION reported in this Issue together with some of the Most Exciting Horror Articles Ever Assembled!

SPEAKING OF
MONSTERS

SUPER CHICK!



WHAT IS RICK BAKER, Monster Maker, doing above in that incredible monster suit of his own making?

Baking!

But if you think that's a hot one, wait'll you sink your claws into this one—this Post Convention Issue of FM where you not only are shown exciting hi-lites of the First Annual FM Con but we come on strong with The Return of Dr. X (would you believe

Humphrey Bogart?), a Japanese treat, rare treats for Colin Clive, John Carradine, Barry Atwater, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Basil Rathbone, Dinosaur, Scientifilm ("Acheta"), Boris Karloff and other fans... and part 2 of the BELA LUGOSI BIO that has already turned FM #115 into an Instant Collectors Item.

Resting on one's laurels is no way to lead the rest so we continue to comb the world to bring you the BEST.

*FORREST
ALPERIN*



THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO



LUCY CHASE WILLIAMS

...who's been around this planet 22 years and spent a good deal of her young life looking at monster movies & reading FM. I didn't know she existed till she astonished me by bidding \$60 for an hour of my time at the First Famous Monsters Convention auction. Frankly, I was flattered—why, she could buy over 60 issues of FM for that amount! If there were more fans like Lucy... willing to pay like that for an hour's conversation with me... I could retire! Is it any wonder—I Love Lucy? Ferry Ackerman

2 WORDS... THEN 64 MORE

Only 2 words can describe #115: Monstrifically Magnificent! Every article was Fearfully Fabulous! Every picture was Gigantically Great! The cover was Superly Superb! #115 holds the record at the top of my list for being the best issue ever but this issue is certainly giving it a run for its money! FM is without a doubt the best magazine on the stands. I wish you hit #200!

KENT "ERIQUE" MADDEN
Novato, Calif.

"ABOUT #114"

It was probably the best issue you ever had—but why was it almost all reprints? That ruined it. In your list of Japanese monster films you forgot one of the greatest—DESTROY ALL MONSTERS and this is inexcusable since you had the story in the same issue. No such movie as KING KONG VS. MECHAKONG—the top was from KING KONG ESCAPES... and anyway it's Mechakong (Several other complaints followed and then...) Maybe in the future you can do a better job on all-Japanese monsters issue.

BILL GUDMUNDSON
Glenview, Ill.



Sounds like we better recall that issue and do it all over again! And yet—despite the reprints that "ruined" it and the TONS of TERRIBLE mistakes he called it "probably the best issue" we ever had!

WORDLESS

#114 was just... just, well, there are no words to describe it! I have praised & worshipped Godzilla & Crew. When I saw this magazine I almost totally freaked out!!!

JOHN DETRICH
Drange, Calif.

WANTED! More Readers Like



ANDREA MATTHEWS

A TURN FOR THE (B)EAST

FM finally came thru! Many thanks for the all-Japan issue. About time someone mentioned Gigan, Negalon et al. I hope those kids who visited the Ackermans made you realize there is more to life than Karloff, Lugosi, Lee, Harryhausen & Cushing. We Godzilla fans would like a turn too!

JEFF MODRE
Stafford, Tex

WANTED! More Readers Like



RENNE RICE

PRD REPORT ON CDN

'Twas a mind-bending spectacle—namely the 1974 Famous Monsters Convention. For those fans who didn't make it last year, make plans for attending this year. You won't regret it. I do the Convention was a bit crude. I expect the second one to be more polished.

The FM cover gallery was fantastic. The posters & still renders could have been expanded but were still interesting.

The high spot was, of course, seeing & hearing the one & only FJA at the crowded auditorium. I managed to get 2 autographs of Ferry. One in the Convention book, the other in my #1.

Catherine Lorne was indeed charming. The wonderful exhibits & lectures were superb and I lauded out loud when Ferry was sold for a mere \$60. By the way, Ferry, what DID you go on in that hotel room??? I have been with FM since early 1965 and am now working on a complete mint set. Your recent issues have shone brightly over the others. FM has achieved a new level of greatness equal to the fabulous #20s.

"A LOYAL FAN"
Long Island, NY



What went on for an hour between the Editor and the fan who bid \$60 for 60 minutes of his time? Nexttime bid a little less \$61 and find out whether you get your turn's worth. All I can say is Ms. Williams left with a smile on her face, saying "I'm glad somebody didn't outbid me!"

WANTED! More Readers Like



AURIGA-PDDKAYNE SEVRIN

THUMBS UP

I enjoyed reading "FJA at Frankenstein's Domain" mainly because of the style in which it was written.

NDB SKIR
E. Norwich, NY

THUMBS SIDEWAYS

FJA prints letters putting himself down and he must be a pretty nice guy to do that.

STEVE MARINO
Ridgewood, Conn.



I've known FJA for nearly 60 years and can tell you from inside experience he's really rotten. Worst of all, he has no sense of humor.—FJA

WONT PUT UP WITH PUTDOWN

I have never written to Fangmail before but this time I think I should I read in #113 about the big putdown on the magazine. I don't see how a person could write that about a magazine. My friend & I have been collecting FM back from #97. I think they are exciting issues. I also think the price fits the magazine just right. I have #106—the one that "What's his name" panned—and I thought it was a very good issue. In fact, I didn't know much about Harryhausen until I read it there.

JEFF GUTRIDGE
Eugene, Ore

WANTED! More Readers Like



CDUNTESS SUSAN CORP



OUR COVER

What's that you say? Our cover's weird... we'd planned it that way. The late John Woodhouse wrote "The Rarab of the World," and it (or they) came to this cover as THE DAY OF THE TIGER! Now the Tigris no longer on our cover, as dictated by the editors of Ken Kelly.

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FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND

Incorporating MONSTER WORLD

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THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT!

—but, fraught with monsters, you will not!

preview by dennis billows

in the beginning

IT MUST HAVE been a little after three o'clock in the afternoon that it happened—the afternoon of June 3rd, 1916. It seems incredible that all that I have passed through—all those weird and terrifying experiences—should have been encompassed within so short a span as three brief months. Rather might I have experienced a cosmic cycle, with all its changes and evolutions, for that which I have seen with my own eyes in this brief interval of time—things that no other mortal eye had seen before, glimpses of a world past, a world dead, a world so long dead that even in the lowest Cambrian stratum no trace of it remains. Fused with the molting inner crust, it has passed forever beyond the ken of man other than in that lost pocket of the

earth whither fate has borne me and where my doom is sealed. I am here and here I must remain."

With these words the immortal Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of TARZAN, JOHN CARTER OF MARS, CARSON OF VENUS and DAVID INNES OF PELLUCIDAR, launched what many critics consider his most exciting & imaginative series of adventures:

**THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT
THE PEOPLE THAT TIME FORGOT
AND OUT OF TIME'S ABYSS.**

Amicus Productions, in association with Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc., is now about to hurl upon the movie screen a tale to enthrall young & old alike.



The Menace of the Mesosaurus! A monster from the depths of the Lost World Lake attacks terrified members of submarine crew.



While rescuing an injured cavewoman, *Last World* explorers are in dinosaurian danger themselves of being injured!

Caprona... The Land That Time Forgot... a continent found only on that mythical map that charts Skull Island, Atlantis, Mu, fabled Hyperborea, Pellucidar at the center of the Earth, the dead sea bottoms of ancient Barsoom. *Caprona*—lost for centuries, a land where Time stood still and *all* the primeval monsters of vanished ages still stalk the land!

torpedoed!

As the story opens, an English Coast Guard walking along the rocky shores of Land's End, in 1918, retrieves a World War I thermos flask from the sea. Inside he finds a manuscript which

tells an incredible story....

It is written by Bowen Tyler (Doug McClure), a young American whose family owned shipyards in California. His adventure began two years earlier when he boarded a British ship, the *S.S. Montrose*, determined to join the war in France.

The action came sooner than expected when the *Montrose* was torpedoed by a German U-boat commanded by Captain von Schoenvorts (John McEnery). He tells his second-in-command, Lt. Deitz (Anthony Ainley), that the passengers aboard the *Montrose* were all civilians and that they will not surface for survivors.

Bowen struggles to a raft from the *Montrose*. Climbing aboard, he finds the unconscious body



The Beek & The Shriek. For more of this horrifying action, turn page!

of an attractive girl, biologist Lisa Clayton (Susan Penhaligon).

Listening intently in the swirling fog all around them, they hear the muffled sound of oars. It is one of the *Montrose's* lifeboats, and strong hands soon haul them aboard.

Among their rescuers are:

Bradley (Keith Barron), the First Officer.

Olson (Declan Mulholland), the Irish First Mate.

Whiteley (Colin Farrell), the Wireless Operator.

And Benson (Ben Howard), the Chief Engineer.

Meanwhile, Von Schoenvorts gives Deitz permission to surface the U-boat to recharge the batteries.

Bowen, an expert on submarines, tells Bradley that the Germans can't have spotted them in the fog. If they can get aboard the U-boat as it surfaces, they could give their enemies a nasty surprise...

mysterious happenings

As the lifeboat draws alongside the surfacing submarine, Bowen and the English sailors leap

silently aboard and quickly disarm von Schoenvorts and the German crew as they emerge from the conning-tower hatch.

The ship's radio is smashed by Deitz in a fight with Olson, so they are unable to make contact with Allied shipping.

After a British warship almost blows the German U-boat out of the water, the port propshaft becomes stuck and von Schoenvorts, now in irons, suggests they must all work together for their common survival.

Days pass.

Bowen is puzzled that they have crossed the Atlantic without sighting a single ship. Has the compass been tampered with?

The tables are abruptly turned when armed Germans suddenly appear. As commander of the submarine, von Schoenvorts had a key to his own irons and came out from his cabin each night to change the course of the compass. He is now heading towards a German supply ship which is refuelling U-boats in the area.

hope is sunk

With Lisa's help, Bowen & Bradley manage

TERROR



Doug McClure valiantly tries to save Ahm the Apeman.

to escape and send a torpedo streaking thru the water towards the German ship.

caprona . . . danger

Von Schoenvorts watches in horror as there follows a tremendous explosion.

Bowen is once more in command of the U-boat. They only have fresh water & supplies to last for one week.

Fuel must be conserved and supplies rationed if they are to survive.

Bowen observes that the sea above the submarine is surrounded by icebergs, yet there are no known icebergs in these waters. Where are they . . . ?

Reluctantly, Bowen asks for von Schoenvort's help. He tells them that the U-boat must have drifted towards Caprona, an uncharted & long-

forgotten island, entirely surrounded by cliffs, first discovered by an early 17th century Italian navigator.

If they don't find a way thru the formidable iceberg-laden sea, they will all perish.

CAPRONA . . . THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT!

They encounter prehistoric creatures extinct upon this planet for millions & millions of years.

Monsters that have no business being alive in the civilized world.

Creatures from Creation's dawn that should have died out long before the 20th Century.

Yet—

Here they are!

Alive!

Gigantic!

Menacing!

DACTYL!



Theme Song: "Ahm Headin' for the Last Graundup..."

Ferocious!
Diplodocus ...
Pterodactyls ...
Plesiosaurus ...
Triceratops ...
Allosaurus ...

danger from the deeps

A huge long-necked Mosasaurus, a terrifying sea-going reptile, rises dripping from the murky depths of the inland ocean to attack the crew of the U-bout.

A battle ensues between men & monster that is touch & go.

But Olson grabs a machine gun and pumps so much hot lead into the creature's carcass that it finally succumbs to "lead poisoning."

Score: Men—1/Plesiosaurus—0.

After the shuddersome sea creature has been killed, von Schoenvorts says to Bowen: "If we

are to have any hope of survival under these unprecedented conditions, we must agree to forget our mutual differences. We must join forces while on this incredible island... else perish."

Bowen agrees... in principle. He, von Schoenvorts & Bradley will each command their own men, with Bowen in charge of their task force in Caprona.

evolution island

They discover that Caprona, vast & exotic, is of volcanic origin.

Is the volcano still dead... or but dormant?

While exploring the mysterious island, they encounter a band of primitive men, barbarians in various stages of human advancement, known as the Bo-La. They wound & capture one of these cavemen, Ahm (Bobby Parr).

From Ahm they learn that he has seen fire



The primitive Bo-Lu man frightens Liso.



Apemon helps modern man hunt for oil.

springing from the ground. Can it be of volcanic origin? Natural gas? Or—

Oil!

Oil they need desperately to help them escape back to civilization in the crippled U-boat.

While heading north on the island, they are suddenly attacked by Sto-La, the tribe more physically advanced than the Bo-La.

Making himself understood by sign language, Ahm indicates that some day he too will become a Sto-La.

They also learn that the humanoid of higher intelligence (such as themselves) are known as "Galu."

life . . . and death

In a dismal swampland they make an exciting discovery:

Oil! Gushing from the ground.

"We'll build a camp here and set up a refinery," Bowen says.

But Ahm emphatically contradicts him. By signs he makes it understood that they must continue North. South, he says, is "Botu"—Death!

The party discovers that the farther they proceed upstream, the closer they come to the source of life on Caprona. In the Sto-La encampment, every living creature must lay eggs which flow into the River of Life and develop thru every stage of evolution of its species. Millions of years of evolution are encompassed in Caprona. Nothing can go back; everything must move forward to Nature's next stage of development, with Galus as the creatures attaining the highest form of perfection . . .

terror from the skies

The party is attacked by a group of Sto-La tribesmen.

The savages abduct Lisa!

Bowen, seeking a way to rescue Lisa, sees two savages fighting over the girl. He manages to save her from a treacherous quicksand pit which sucks down the Sto-La leader.

Just then, Lisa notices Ahm. He has become a Sto-La, mentally aware and changed in physical appearance.

Amidst the battle, the skies darken and an enormous shadow passes over the land. Giant claws swoop down and clutch the struggling Ahm! Bowen tries unsuccessfully to save him from the talons of a giant winged prehistoric reptile which carries him off into the distance . . .

captured by savages!

Back on firm ground, Bowen & Lisa are captured by spear-carrying Band-La warriors, members of the next stage of evolution on Caprona.

The chief wants to put the two "Galus" to death but, as he speaks, the sleeping volcano



The Pool of Life! Primitive maidens, ever menaced by ferocious beasts, renew their vitality in the rejuvenating waters.

wakes and panic breaks out. Bowen engages in a fierce duel to the death with the Chief, then in the confusion escapes with Lisa.

Back at the makeshift stockade, the last barrel of oil has been carried onto the U-boat.

Von Schoenvorts & Deitz are also aboard.

Deitz wants to sail immediately, leaving the English & American behind. Von Schoenvorts says he will wait for them as long as necessary but Deitz uses his gun to seize control of the submarine. He shoots Olson, wounds von Schoenvorts & Bradley, then gives an order to the helmsman:

"Start ship!"

abandoned!

Bowen & Lisa arrive on the beach in time to see the U-boat leaving without them.

The volcano is now having its full effect on the bubbling, steaming lake thru which the U-boat must sail to leave the island.

The submarine, commanded by the now-crazed Deitz, retreats into the distance. As it prepares to submerge, boiling bubbles swell up from the

depths of the lake.

The heat becomes stifling!

The men fight for breath!

Deitz, too, begins to panic.

On board, Bradley shoots Deitz but it is too late to save them as the U-boat is drawn down into the boiling lake!

sinking hopes

Bowen & Lisa watch helplessly from the shore. With the sinking of the submarine all hopes of escape have disappeared.

They survive together for 6 months, alone & unarmed in a terrifying hostile, primeval land. Then Bowen writes a message, places it inside a thermos flask and flings it with all his strength out into the sea.

It is their one possibility of rescue from Caprona, "THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT"...

the killer apes theory?

"The Land That Time Forgot" was first pub-



The Mosasaurus strikes again and Bowen & Olsen attempt to defend themselves.

lished in *Blue Book* magazine in August 1918, just a few years before the famous Scopes Monkey Trial. Many of you have "witnessed" this trial via the Fredric March & Spencer Tracy film *INHERIT THE WIND* (1960) which was our country's first legally contested furor over the Theory of Evolution which today is taught in every school in the country and is widely accepted.

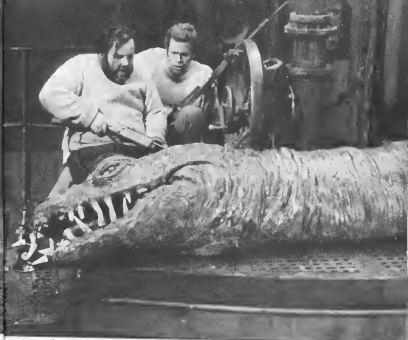
According to Mike Resnick in *ERBdom* (December 1963), who did an interesting & accurate article called *A Journey Thru Caspak*, "We have 7 categories of men in Caspak: Ho-lus (apes), the Alus (Speechless Men), the Bo-lus (Club Men), the Sto-lus (Hatchet Men), the Band-lus (Spear Men), the Kro-lus (Bow & Arrow Men) and the Galus (Rope Men). A most interesting feature comes immediately to mind: the various levels on Caspak's scale of evolution depend upon the degree of perfection of the tribes' weapons. This theory is a forerunner, by well over 40 years, of the current theory that Man did not make weapons but, quite the contrary, weapons made

Man. Man, according to Robert Ardrey's theory, has evolved from a tribe of killer apes with a strong instinct necessitating the need for weapons. Mr. Burroughs would probably have been astounded to see the similarity of his work and this current theory!"

For the many of you interested in Edgar Rice Burroughs and his works, we suggest you contact *ERBdom*, 2350 E. Contour Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, an amateur magazine which is published by Camille Cazadessus Jr. Mr. Cazadessus, in his own write, is an expert in the field of Burroughs and has one of the largest collections of memorabilia relating to the author's famous characters anywhere in the world!

things to come: a showmen omen?

It's taken more than half a century for "The Land That Time Forgot" to move from magazine to movie and into the theaters.



Life on the island of Caprona is never dull! One sea-beast down, how many to go?

Hopefully, it will be worth the wait.

The Dinosaur sequences are the trick work of Roger Dicken, best known for his special effects in *WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH* and special effects for 2001: *A SPACE ODYSSEY*!

Prophecy? The sound stage used for the filming of *THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT* has a historic history: it was originally constructed to house the mammoth futuristic sets of Sir Alexander Korda's 1936 prediction/production of HG Wells' classic (*SHAPE OF*) *THINGS TO COME*!

Since '36, the Wells stage has been the scene of many spectacular productions, including *DR. STRANGELOVE*.

Will '76 possibly see a sequel to *THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT*?

There could very easily be one: Burroughs wrote it!

He called it: "The People That Time Forgot."

In fact, like *THE FLY*, *RETURN OF THE FLY & CURSE OF THE FLY*; *THE CREA-*

TURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, *REVENGE OF THE CREATURE & THE CREATURE WALKS AMONG US*; *FRANKENSTEIN*, *BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN & SON OF FRANKENSTEIN*; there could even be a *trilogy*, for there's a third & final book about the millions-of-years-old lost world of Caspak, somewhere in the Antarctic:

"Out of Time's Abyss."

If you like *THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT*, raise a fuss with Amicus!

Tell AIP you want to see all 3!

This year, on the Anniversary of the 100th year since his birth, the U.S. Government will honor Edgar Rice Burroughs with the issuance of a special commemorative postage stamp. Edgar Allan Poe made it, now the Master Mind of Adventure!

If you put your stamp of approval on *THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT* at the box office, who knows?—the road could lead to *Pellucidar* ... *Barsoom* ... *Amtor* ... or maybe *THE MONSTER MEN*.

END

THE BOGIE MAN WILL GET YOU!

—so do watch out!

a real electro-cutie

X MARKS THE SPOT. The spot where, before your very eyes, you see Humphrey (Shweetheart) Bogart turn into a zombie. Dead yet alive! Electrocutied hut returned to life; pale, anemic, vampiric in his thirst ... his desperate need ... for blood.

Westmore brother Perc made him up in 1939 in makeup quite similar to what he had done for Boris Karloff 3 years before in *THE WALKING DEAD*. This time it was for *THE RETURN OF DR. X*, suggesting a sequel to the original *DR. X* hut not, in fact, any relation to it.

Odd facts: George Reeves had a hit part in *THE RETURN OF DR. X*. Twelve years later he was starring in *SUPERMAN & THE MOLE MEN*. Creighton Hale was in it. He'd been the star of the silent Merritt movie *7 FOOTPRINTS TO SATAN*.

And Glenn Langan was in it, he who in 1957 became *THE AMAZING COLOSSAL MAN*.

Watch, as on this page & the next the great tough guy is turned before your very eye (hi, Cyclops!) into a blood gurgling, bloodcurdling monster!

Next Issue—meet Eck!



Going highbrow? No, just darkening an eyebrow for his role as *DR. X* (Warner Bros, 1939). Above, Perc Westmore turning Humphrey Bogart into a pesty-faced fiend ... so that audiences of 1939 would be glued to their seats.



**"LET ME
CALL YOU
SHWEETHEART!"**

Bogge's in love with you—in fact, nobody else's blood will do!

END
17

THE BOOK OF BELLA

PART II





SCARED TO DEATH by Bela in 1947.

revelations from the past

"...for here, now, for the first time, I shall tell the truth. It was like this: for purposes of publicity, for purposes of simplification, I have always thought it better to tell a lie about the early years of my life. I have always told that I was appointed to Hungary's Royal National Theatre in the orthodox way. I have always told that I went to High Schools, universities, the Academy of Theatrical Arts, the gymnasium in Budapest. It is the madness of the young, perhaps, to tell boasting lies without the maturity of mind to recognize that to tell the truth is sometimes truer boasting...

"...it is so in my case, I think. For the truth I now tell is that I became the leading actor of Hungary's Royal National Theatre, which was something higher than the Comedie Francaise, similar to the Moscow Art Theatre, in the most unorthodox way; in a way that required of me far more of will and work than if I had attended high schools and universities...

"Actually, then, I hardly went to school in my life at all. I had 6 years of the elementary schools, learned only to read and to write.

like an underground worker of metropolis

"My father died when I was 12 years old and I then ran away from home. I walked 300 miles to a mining town, where coals were mined, and iron; where bridges and machines were built. I worked, first as an apprentice in the mines. There, in the dark bowels of the earth, I did sometimes think I might go mad... there we were sub-human men... there I learned my horror, now, of the darkness... of the earth's deep darkness rather than the darkness of another world..."

"In time I was promoted to be a riveter, making bridges... then to the machine shop where they build 4 & 5 thousand horse-power machines... there was something about the perfectionism of that giant machinery, functioning with the delicacy of a woman's breathing, that is also responsible for my passion for perfectionism today... no, not madness, this, I say... but method, a passion for method and for functional perfection..."

"When I was 18, I was promoted to assembling machines, putting them to work. I thought it was like being a god who has control over the

BELA in 1944



Bela in 1944 as Dr. Richard Marlowe, the mad scientist who kidnapped young girls with the aid of his weird assistants so he could use them (the girls, not the assistants) in eerie experiments to revive his dead wife via voodoo. John Carradine & George Zucco were prominent in the cast.

fruits of the bowels of the earth... to touch my hand to a button controlling machines of such vast horse-power gave me a feeling of maniacal strength...

the hands of ordrac

"...my hands... it was my hands that won me the part of DRACULA on the New York stage... it is my hands people remark, often, shuddering... it is my hands to which are ascribed unnatural powers... if so be it they have such powers, they did not acquire them in supernatural ways but from gouging metals out of the earth, from pounding rivets into vast bridges, from controlling machines mightier by far than the men who made them... the powers of darkness are not so powerful as these..."

"Meantime, my sister married. Her husband was a professor of a Gymnasium. They felt very badly that I was in the class of those who work physically. She asked me to come to the town where she was living and make my home with her. For a time I worked as a skilled machinist in a railway repair shop. But this, too, was not clean work. I would come home with my hands and nails grimed with oil... Devil's hands my sister would laugh, not looking at them..."

"I had, at that time, a quite remarkable voice. Baritone. Through the influence of my brother-in-law, the director of the little theatre in the town asked me to come into the chorus. I went into the chorus but, never having done anything but manual labor, I was awkward. They tried to give me little parts in their plays but I was so uneducated, so stupid, people just laughed at me.

"But I got the taste of the stage. I got, also, the rancid taste of humiliation.

"It was then I got, too, the knowledge of the main key to my character, the knowledge, of which I have spoken; that I had the ability to focus my will, my mind, my body, my emotions into one deep and driving channel... if what I did then, and still do, is mania, then let me be maniac since I achieved my purpose.

white heat

"But first, then, I went up to Budapest. I saw there an agent and I told him my story—and my purpose. He hired me for a small village theatrical troupe. In two weeks they kicked me out. This happened 20 or 25 times. But each time I learned a little... each time I was humiliated I learned a little and my will was forged to whiter and whiter heat... each time I had to sit in corners listening to other men talk; told, when I tried to have an opinion, 'Oh, shut up, I want to talk! because they had read and I had not... each of such times, I learned..."

"It was then I began. Then that for 10 years day & night, night & day, with only one, two three hours sleep, I read and read and READ..."



Bela with Edmund Lowe, with whom he was also paired in *CHANDU, THE MAGICIAN*.

until I could talk with any college professor in the world. Until, languages, the sciences, practical or otherwise, I would give forth with a lecture. Still, today, I read and read and READ... some call this mad. I think not. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, yes. But vast knowledge, then, is safety.

"So, then, by the end of 2 or 3 years I worked up to playing leading parts. I then went to a bigger troupe in a bigger town. Each week, each month, each year, a little higher, little higher, little higher!

"Finally, in the eleventh year, I was leading man of a very large troupe in the province. I was seen by some of the personnel of the Royal National Theatre. I was invited to be guest star there. I would be appointed, I was told, if approved by the highest critics in Budapest.

"I made the guest performance. As Romeo in *Romeo & Juliet*, I was approved. More, I was lauded among the highest actors in Hungary. It was wonderful training, hand in hand with wonderful success, because one day I played Hamlet, the next day I played a servant with three lines to speak. Besides a thorough grounding in the classics I played, too, in many of the leading modern plays of the time, such as Molnar's *Lillemor* and others.

"Then came the war...

"only vampires count their victims"

"...but before that, I must tell, before that

and during my years in the various troupes, there were long chains of love affairs. This is not stupid bragging. This was the life of a young and lusty actor in the provinces. It may be said, 'But it is madness to keep count of the women in one's life... only vampires count their victims'... at that I can only shrug. 'Maybe'...

"...and there was one... and is this madness? Yes, this may be...

"It happened in a small resort town in Hungary where I was vacationing. One day, I was paying my respects to the Old Master of the Royal National Theatre who was also visiting there. He was sitting at his round table on the terrace when I greeted him, 'Good evening, master,' and kissed his hand. He then indicated 2 or 3 ladies in his group. I was standing directly behind one of them. As he spoke her name & mine, she turned around and looked up at me...

the vampirina

"Like an owl's eyes, round, round... I imagined they could not close, ever. Like two ornaments hung on her face, they were.

"We just looked at each other, staring, staring... there were no words. We had, finally, to be interrupted. As I sat there, not speaking, I learned at what pension she was stopping. Soon she said she must go, she had letters to write. In company with another man, I escorted her home; still saying nothing. I then returned to my pension. But before I entered it, something stopped me. Something overcame me. I had to go back where



she was. I got such an urge to see her, to make love to that woman that I became desperate. I looked for ways to accomplish it, just like a criminal.

"I went to her pension. I saw her in the writing room. I asked the clerk the number of her room and whether she was in. He said no, she had not yet returned. I sat in the lobby and waited. When the clerk was not looking, I ran up the stairs. I climbed to the balcony outside her window. When she came into the room, I called her to me. She came to me without a word, as wordless as I... that was the most exciting, the most mad experience of my life. That was madness. I would not, now, want to be married to that woman. But nothing like it ever came to me before and nothing like it has ever come to me again...

"...it was the story of this woman that was told, by a writer in Hollywood some years ago, as my experience with a vampire... she was not a vampire, she was a woman of flesh & blood.

But she did to me what the vampire is reputed to do: she drained away much of my youth. When she said, 'Drop the curtain, now, and let it end, as I do,' I was not as I had been before...

"...but if this be madness, then many men have had such madness in their lives for many men have had such experiences... but I also admit that such experiences are the stuff of which madness may be made...

"The war... then, during my years with the Royal National Theatre, I have said, came the war...

lugosi & mars (god of war)

"During the 3 years I was in the war, I was wounded 3 times. Twice the wounds were slight. Once, a bullet passed through my body and left me—LIVING. Dracula, it has been pointed out to me, could not be killed by any means of Man.

There was one moment I could never forget.



Who would have dreamed the little boy on the left, next to sister Vilma, would grow up to be the King of the Undead, the Terror of Transylvania, the Master Vampire!



Very early performance by Bela Blasko, first known on the Hungarian stage & screen as Arisztid Ott.

We were protecting a forest from the Russians. All of us were cowering beneath huge trees, each man beneath a tree. A young officer, incautious, went a little way out of cover and a bullet struck his breast. I forgot the Russians were firing from their line with machine guns. Not a selfless man, I had one selfless moment . . . I ran to him and gave him first aid. I came back to my tree and found that it had been blown to the heavens in heavy, crushing pieces. I became hysterical. I wept there, on the forest floor, like a child . . . not from fear, not even from relief . . . from gratitude at how God had paid me back for having that good heart!

" . . . if I am mad, I ask . . . are not all men who have been through a war a little mad? Have they not the right to be a little mad?

" . . . after the war, came the Revolution. There, too, the seeds of madness scatter like the bodies of one's friends and foes . . . when you see them drop dead to the right and the left, you find yourself saying, 'Why? Why? Why? WHY?'

flight for life

"I got mixed up in politics and had to flee for my life. I went to Germany and made some films. I went then to Italy and embarked as as-



A homebody evening around the organ. "The Family that Plays Together, Slays Together," Luana Walters (one of THE CAT PEOPLE), Angelo Rossitto & Bela in THE CORPSE VANISHES, 1941.

stant engineer on a small cargo boat. Our cargo was steel plates. There was a very heavy storm at sea. Our ship turned over on its side and for three and a half weeks we were that way. Five weeks it took us to go from Trieste to New Orleans. Spend three and a half weeks turned sidewise upon a raging sea and the mind totters and heaves like the seas beneath...

"I went from New Orleans to New York. I played many straight roles in the theatre—until DRACULA. I then did DRACULA for the films, here in Hollywood. The character made me a screen star, gave me home and wealth. A few years of that and then the ban on 'horror' films. I had difficulty getting straight roles. I lived, then, in the 'horror' medium... waiting for telephones that did not ring, to ring... the loss of our home... awaiting the birth of the little son who was coming into that vacuum..."

rebirth of horror

"It was when a small, independent producer, experimenting, revived DRACULA & FRANKENSTEIN and crowds stood in line, that the tide turned again for me. I was cast in SON OF FRANKENSTEIN. Once back in the running, I tried to liberate myself from the Dracula curse. I did not want to divorce myself entirely from horror roles. I did want, and do want, to make straight character leads my main work. I have had some success. I was cast in a straight character role in THE SAINT'S DOUBLE TROUBLE, in a role with comedy implications in YOU'LL FIND OUT... small parts, most of them, but headed where I want to go... now, again the horror medium in THE BLACK CAT and DEVIL BAT..."

castle dracula

"So, now, we are buying a new house, my wife & I. It will be called Castle Dracula. It is rustic, odd, with iron grille work within and strange birds mounted on the roof... it is the type of house, my wife says, that I would be supposed to live in..."

"I am not the freak, the showcase I used to be. My small son, it is, who has been my judge, who has liberated me from my identity, real or fancied, with such as DRACULA... for when he sees me, in horrendous make-up, neck twisted and broken, deformed, macabre, he shouts, gleefully, 'DADDY! DADDY'S ACTING!'"

tribute to "belus" (the little bela)

"...I ask myself the question 'Am I mad?' and I do not have to answer... the little Bela... he knows..."

And soon his son will tell us all much more about his fabulous father in one of the year's most eagerly awaited books, a sure contender for Ann Radcliffe honors!—FJA

END



The Blacksmith with the Broken Neck! Lugosi in one of his Best Characterizations, along with Count Dracula & Murder Legendre (the latter in WHITE ZOMBIE).

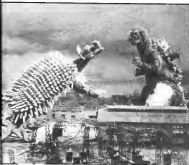


Ygor gives instructions to SON OF FRANKENSTEIN (Basil Rathbone) in Universal classic of 1939.

JAPANESE TREATS!



GIGAN Vs. Godzilla in the Big Battle of 1972.



GIGANTIS, THE FIRE MONSTER (1957)



SUPER GIANT attacked by Alien Spaceman!



Out Space War Against THE MYSTERIANS (1957)



H-MAN fills his female victim with horror.

THANKS from YANKS

Among those who especially appreciated
GODZILLA ISSUE #115 were JOHN DE-
RICH . . . KYLE WATSON . . . DAVID
ROCK . . . DALE R. WATSON . . . DANNY
JEAN . . . DAVID SCHLESSER . . . FRANK
ATEUS . . . BILL VOELKER JR. . . and
the GODZILLIACS of HORIZON HIGH
(Karloffornia).



GHIDRAH the triple-threat monster (1964)

RARE TREATS!

dept. of the unseen

75 000 FOTOS! The Ackerman Archives of supernatural stills, scream & sci-fi scenes and petrifying fantasy/horror pix are ever on the increase. In one month alone a couple hundred new Lugosi stills were purchased. Virtually nobody can ever hope to have the time to look at ALL Forry's fotos and it

would take a lifetime to show even half this fabulous collection in print in these pages. So, rather than make you wait, as fast as fascinating new pix are acquired, a selection is made and they are shown to you immediately rather than waiting months or years for some feature in which they would fit. RARE TREATS! here! now!



George Zucco was in this creepy remake of the silent classic. Also Douglass Montgomery (of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD) and Gale Sondergaard. THE CAT & THE CANARY (the canary is Paulette Goddard).



Boris Karloff pierces thru to the plane of the After Life in **THE DEVIL COMMANDS**, thrilling/chilling sci-entifilm made by Columbia in 1941.



RARE TREATS!

The Russians got to Mars in **AELITA (THE REVOLT OF THE ROBOTS)** in 1924. Why, it's enough to make you see red, isn't it?



THE PURPLE MONSTER STRIKES, 1945 serial, making a comeback on TV nowadays as a feature titled **D-DAY ON MARS**.

A vampire appears in public. Barry Atwater of *Nightstalker* fame, out for blood at an annual Awards Banquet of the Count Dracula Society.



The stakes were high in *COBRA WOMAN*. Victim top left: Sabu. Top right: Jan Hell.

RARE TREATS!



Gone to the ultimate **BLACK SLEEP**: Lon Choney Jr., Basil Rathbone, Tor Johnson. Still among the living: John Carradine, Solly Yornell, George Sawaya.



Welcome to Hell! It happened in **SCROOGE** and that's Alec Guinness as Morley's Ghost, entering the Devil's Domain.

MYSTERY PHOTO

NUMBER 81

**BLACKULA?
BLACKENSTEIN??
BLACKY LAGOON??**

ZOMBIE from I WALKED WITH A ZOMBIE?
A Lost Man from OMEGA MAN? A Cult Priest
from COBRA WOMAN? No, these are just a
tease—it couldn't be any of them—because
Jean Durend only appeared in this picture last
year.

Properly re-arrange the letters in U TOOK
HELEN SUM LION HAUNTS and you'll have it,
this recent film about ancient voodoo rituals.



ANSWER TO MYSTERY PHOTO No.80

PSYCHOUT!

Not Blah's PSYCHO nor PSYCHOPATH, nor MOTOR-
PSYCHO, but PSYCHOUT.

As we go to press, no one had yet identified it.

As we go to press, 3 fans had some in their opinions
on Mystery Photo #79—2 of them wrong! Cherise & Ken
(we'll omit their last names, since they were wrong)
both guessed Lon Chaney Sr. as the Shady Lady (as they
cleverly put it) in THE UNHOLY 3. The only one who was
right was:

VINCENT ROSSIGN

Beneath the veil he recognized

LIOMEL ATWELL

in

GENIUS AT WORK

Further fans who recognized #79 as Boris Karloff in
"Test of the Somerville" on Thriller were Mike Shaul-
lin, David M. Tenhenge Jr., Bob Keibie, John Jaisack,
Dede Schepf, Mike Tenish & Wellesce Wingert.



FIRST FAMOUS MONSTERS

report by
paul linden



FILMONSTER CONVENTION



amazing attendance

FROM KARLOFFORNIA to Florida they came, from Kentucky to Canada, and, confidentially, from the looks of some of the attendees, I wouldn't be surprised if some of them came from Outer Space!

The most surprised-looking individual of all seemed to be Forry Ackerman, the genial editor of FM, who seemed at all times to be surrounded by, as WCFields was fond of saying, a living wall of human flesh. (If, indeed, it was all human. I saw quite a few people who might very well have been vampires or werewolves. But one thing—no zombies! No, everyone was entirely too animated to have been a zombie!)

I caught Forry at a comparatively carefree moment—in an elevator, of all places, at 1:30 in the morning, with ONLY 5 or 6 fans asking him questions at once or asking for autographs—and walking with him down to his hotel room I asked him what his reaction to the Convention was so far. (It was the after-midnight of the second day.)

"I'm amazed by the mobs," he said. "Do you realize—no, I guess you weren't born yet—that at the first World Science Fiction Convention there were no more than 200 people? At this first Filmonstercon there must be 2000!"

As it turned out, the official estimate was around 3500!

circus of horror

The Con had all the aspects of a 3-ring circus, there was so much to be seen! You could have spent all your time on the ground floor of the Commodore Hotel and never have gotten to the mezzanine!

Left: filmonster fiends flocked to Warren's Ware (Wolf) Shop to buy beastly bargains.



Nobody's masking their emotions here as fervid fans feel latex faces of Famous Monsters in Warren Exhibition Room.

You were immediately faced by 3 choices:

Take the door to the left and you would walk into a wonder world of garish colors & brilliant artwork. In fact, the colors were so bright that you might have to wear dark glasses to shield your eyes from the glare.

Where to look first?

There Gogos' great rendition of The King when he died in 1969!

There that beautiful masked Phantom, Claude Rains, as conceived by Gogos.

There another great Gogos: the fire-burned surface of Vincent Price from THE 3-D HOUSE OF WAX.

All ever so much more magnificent in the original vivid paints than you had ever imagined!

And so large!

So much larger than the magazine covers themselves!

Wow!—look at that! The original Bela Lugosi "manimal" cover by Nuetzel from ISLAND OF LOST SOULS 'way back in 1959!

And what's that—! A Ron Cobb original! Of Henry Hull as THE WEREWOLF OF LONDON! And do your eyes deceive or is it Cobb's fabulous rendition of Lon Chaney as THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME? By Quasi-modo, it is!

Werewolves, vampires, zombies, creatures, things... Christopher Lee, Lon Chaney Jr., King Kong, the Creature from the Black Lagoon—all spread out in a "smorgashblood," as Vampirella once said, a fantastic feast for the eye of famous monster after famous monster, and seeing them in all their glory, as they were actually drawn, and not in reproduced printed versions (great tho they were) is almost like seeing a movie in color & 3-D after seeing it previously on TV in black & white!

Why, you could stay all day & all night just looking at this incredible array of artwork!

the devil's doorway

Across the hall from the Exhibition of FM artwork was the entrance to Warren Publications' (Be)Warehouse of Beastly Baubles, Petrifying Posters, Macabre Masks, Creepy Collectors' Items, Monsterrific Models, Dazzling Dinosaurs and... well, you name it! Some things were even nameless.

A boy & his bread were soon parted in this torture chamber of a thousand & one delights and the girl horror fans too had a hard time holding onto their purses when confronted by such an enticing array of gorgeous ghoulish goodies to



Captain Co. Saleslady & Assistant check teeth on Tyrannosaurus Rex before putting bite on customer.



FJA explains that "The gun is mightier than the sword" as thousands sneer—or, cheer! Ackermanster proved to be pun-dit.



Master auctioneer Phil Seuling squeezes one more banana out of Ape Planet fan for authentic facial appliance from film.

purchase and take home as souvenirs of the first Monstercon.

In this corner:

Genuine Don Post Masks of

- The Mummy
- The Mad Doctor
- Quasimodo
- The Wolf Man
- Frankenstein
- Dracula
- The Phantom

—And Manny Moore (you remember Manny Moore, surely, in THE PHANTOM OF THE OCEAN FLOOR?).

In that corner:

Posters galore.

Giant black-&-white blowups of: KING KONG towering over New York.

The insidious DR. FU MANCHU as portrayed by Boris Karloff.

Fredric March as the evil side of Dr. Jekyll

—MR. HYDE.

And a score more.

And even more fabulous in rainbow technicolor:

VAMPIRELLA, looking so fantastically real that you almost expected her to step right out of the picture and bite the nearest fella.

Lionel Atwill on the chilling cover for THE MYSTERY OF THE WAX MUSEUM.

The Instant Collectors Item that was the sensational cover on FM #100: Gogos' Karloff FRANKENSTEIN.

And dozens more!

and in this corner...

On the north side of Warren's Room of A Thousand Wonders one could sit for hours and watch many mini-versions of famous horror classics such as—

THE BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLF MAN

ABBOTT & COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN

TARANTULA
THE MUMMY
Etc. etc.

On the south side was a mouth-watering mass of magazines & pocketbooks for sale.

The issue of FM that hadn't even been seen yet by the general public!

Back issues of FM that many had never seen from years & years ago.

Paperbacks that would make a Nosferatu name Max schreck with delight:

"The Night Stalker"

Dark Shadows series like "Mystery of Collins wood," "Demon of Barnabas Collins," "The Phantom," "The Mysterious Ghost," "The Warlock," etc.

Fans were grabbing copies of "The Sci-Fi Worlds of FJA" like they were free autographs of Bela Lugosi so they could get Fory Ackerman



Front row, judges for Masquerade. Arm raised: FM's official photographer from the West Coast, Walter J. Daugherty. Next to left, Verne (Make-up Maestro) Longdon. Mr. Crory, Gogos the Great, Et. joy the Erie.



File of Frankenstein (Margaret Kappelman) gets crossed to by Dr. Ackula, who get down on one knee like Al Jolson singing "Mammy" and then had difficulty getting up again. But Margie was too honorable to mention it—which was one of the reasons, folks, she received Honorable Mention for her make-up.



Verne Longdon, last man to make up the late King Kerloff, stands at mike on stage explaining to fascinated audience how his partner, the creative Mr. Crory, is turning a Famous Monsters fan into a bald-headed, hook-beaked, spock-eared humanoid worthy of playing a part on a midnight terrorvision show!

VAMPIRELLA VAMPS THE JUDGES



man's signature on his book.

(An authentic Lugosi autograph sold at one of the auctions for \$125.00. More of that later.)

records broken

And then there were the phonograph albums!

You could take home with you the voice of Boris Karloff. Of Bela Lugosi. The eerie artistry of Edgar Allan Poe with nerve-shattering recitals of "The Pit & the Pendulum," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "A Descent into the Maelstrom."

You could thrill, as America did in 1938, to the Invasion from Mars as adapted for radio by the brilliant young genius Orson Welles from the classic HG Wells' thriller WAR OF THE WORLDS.

You could re-create DR. DRUID'S HAUNTED SEANCE in your own home... shudder to the minor melodies produced by THE PHANTOM OF THE ORGAN... hear to your heart's content the horror of THE VAMPYR OF THE HARPSICORD.

Hear KING KONG roar!

And more... much more!

Buck Rogers! Superman! The Shadow! The Green Hornet! Flash Gordon! Tarzan! Arch Oboler with radio's legendary Lights Out!

and in this corner...

Was this a room with 5 corners?

6?

Maybe it was a 4-dimensional room: it seemed impossible so much groovy glitzy stuff could be packed into one display chamber!

Tough, terrific & tantalizing!

I even found myself reaching for my travelers checks (from the First Blood Bank of Transylvania, naturally).

There I saw rare model kits that I didn't even know existed, Aurora specials from out of the past and some pretty special models of the present too:

Vampi herself!

Glowing Frankenstein!

Glowing Dracula!

Glowing Godzilla!

The Mummy... the Werewolf... The Creature

... Quasimodo... KING KONG!

And stacks of minipacks of moving pics like THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN, THE BIRTH OF FRANKENSTEIN, Harryhausen animation classics like MIGHTY JOE & 20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH AND EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS!

Never before such a display in a single room of such monsterrific memorabilia!

what the fans thought

But let me interrupt my recital for a few pages to let some of the other attendees tell you in their



Among the many celebrities present were Uncle Creepy & Cousin Eerie, here making public appearance outside the Gallery of Ghoulish Art.



HER Famous Father was "The Lord High Minister of All That Was Sinister." YES, that's the Daughter of Peter Lorre... and behind her is Editor Forry.

own words how they enjoyed this epic event.

Steve Weber:

What joy!!!

Yes, you could not possibly imagine my joy as I marched up those hallowed steps into the Commodore Hotel. The same steps that Sir James Warren, Verne Langdon and FORRY ACKERMAN walked!!

And what did I see?

Every bit of monster-memorabilia conceived. I was ready to clean out the place! Magazines, masks, posters, buttons, just everything! Such a sight is rarely seen!

I'm sure there have been many letters of exuberance such as mine. I just thought I might add mine to that infinite list.

Then, to add, I had met others who are into make-up like myself. We traded ideas, secrets, methods & artifacts. What a time.

In conclusion, I would like to say, and I'm sure I speak for every other FM fan--

GIVE US MORE MONSTERS!

GIVE US ANOTHER GREAT TIME!

GIVE US ANOTHER MONSTER-CON!

excited opinions

Mark Cerucci:

Your Famous Monsters Convention was GREAT! It wasn't a quick "make-a-buck" thing but showed quite a bit of planning on your parts.

You, Mr. Editor, showed a great deal of self control & patience, what with kids coming up to you, asking the most *inane* questions I've ever heard, and you having to repeat the answers 3 or 4 times so it would sink in. And the autograph hounds, clawing at you (I myself got your signature 3 times!) It's a wonder you didn't run out clawing your temples.

All in all it was a lot of fun--Verne Langdon was great, the artists, esp. Gogos, were interesting, and the painting exhibition was terrific.

Your convention was great and I've already signed up for next year's.

a girl's-eye view

From Andrea J. Matthews:



Crary & Langdon face their greatest challenge: attempting to make Jim Warren, monsterrific publisher of **FAMOUS MONSTERS**, look human! (After 48-hour marathon they had to admit defeat.)

Dear Forry,

On Saturday, November 9, 1974, I attended your First Annual Famous Monsters Convention. It was one of the greatest days of my life! Just imagine meeting the Ackermanmonster himself and getting his autograph, seeing Peter Lorre's daughter and watching Verne Langdon turn my fellow convention members into apes right before my eyes.

I don't know whether you remember me or not but I was the 11½-year-old, 5 ft. blond girl that followed you around for nearly 11 hours. Just after the auction I was waiting for the elevator to bring me down to the lobby. When I saw one of the elevator doors open I jumped in without realizing that it was going up. When I got up to about the 22d floor the doors finally opened. And, there you were across the hall as big as life, with your hotel room door open. I saw that you were talking to the girl that paid for an hour's time with you at the auction. I waved to you just before the elevator door closed again. Then during the trivia contest finals you called on me twice to ask questions. My questions were "How many airplanes actually appeared in KING KONG?" and "How much did the hump weigh that Lon Chaney wore on his back in THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME?"

What made the day doubly exciting for me was the fact that while I was looking at the masks in the West Ballroom, Channel 2 News came by and asked me if I would like to try on one of the masks so they could put me on the news that evening. Of course I agreed and asked if I could use a Dr. Zaius mask. I got so attached to it that I had to buy it.

Thanks for a great day!!!

a hawk's-eye view

Scott Hawk:

Dear Forry, (if I may be so informal) (by all means—Forry)

I am a very big fan of yours and after seeing you in person I just had to write you a letter. I'm the same guy who wrote the many-versed poem on the first FM convention. I want to thank you very much for the autographed portrait you so surprisingly sent me. I guess it's not really so surprising, for when I pitied you at the Con, you said, "I could sign autographs till my hands fell off!" I admire you for that, Mr. Ackerman, I really do, (I don't know what's to admire, young fellow—I'll point out, before some badmouther does, that all it takes, in my opinion, is a manu-



Of course, inevitably, Count Dracula flew in from Transylvania. He'd have been bats not to. He got 2d Prize in the Masquerade and claimed to be Charles Jackson from Maryland...but of course the audience knew better!

MIRROR ON THE WALL... WHO IS THE UGLIEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL?

PLEASE PUT UP YOUR VOTE FOR THE UGLIEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL CONTEST. THE MONSTER WHOSE NAME YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO VOTE FOR WILL BE THE UGLIEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL.



Monster Fans contemplate faces of contestants in Ugliest Monster of Them All Contest. (Warren employees were ruled out.) Vote-money collected went to the American Cancer Society to fight that frightful disease, which was (and rightly so) characterized as "a REAL monster!"

mental lust for egoboo. When I was a kid I was hugely amused to be told by Dr. David H. Keller, a scientfiction star of the 30s whom I greatly admired, that he liked the sound of his own voice so much that back home where he lived in Stroudsburg, Pa., he paid people 50¢ an hour just to listen to him. How flattering, then, that a filmonster fan would pay \$1 a minute to listen to ME! And boy, the picture & the envelope both look glitzy among the rest of my posters, stills, drawings, magazines, paperbacks, models, soundtracks, masks & whatever clothes still fit in my now tinier room! I really can't thank you enough.

About the convention, I said a lot of what I thought in my poem but there are a lot of things which I just couldn't rhyme. I am really nutty about Don Post's masks and now that I've seen them I want to get them all! The ones which impressed me most were the Planet of the Apes masks, which I am really bananas over. I really hope they're brought out soon because I have just saved up the greater part of my paltry paper

route salary to get one! I'm also having an outfit made to match that of Cornelius, Galen & Caesar. I'm a real Apes nut! I am really sorry to see the Zombie masks have run out, especially after having the extreme pleasure of meeting its creator, Mr. Verne Langdon. I am now the proud owner of his, as well as yours, Miss Lorre's, and ye publisher's, autographs.

... more to come

There is more to Scott Hawk's letter as well as letters on hand from CJMattos, Rick Gillow, John Esposito and others.

As well as scads more pics.

And I myself will be conducting you, via further installments of this report, to the Speakers Auditorium, the Masquerade, the Auctions, etc. etc.

Replete with photographic coverage.

Re-live the First FM Con!

Prepare for the Second! /

END

a son's view
of an
illustrious parent
by the late
creighton (lon) chaney
as originally
written
in 1934



MY FATHER-- "MR MONSTER"

It isn't easy to write about your father who is dead. Especially when that father happened once to personify all the fiendish attributes in the world to several millions of his countrymen. But so many of his friends have spoken to me since his death; those friends he never knew, asking what he was really like. Only the other day I received a letter from a lady in Mobile, Alabama, who had seen every Lon Chaney picture and wanted to know whether I was related to him.

Strangely enough these friends remember him not as the unspeakable Phantom of the Opera nor even as the deformed but heroic little man who poured boiling oil on the attackers of Notre Dame but rather as a superbly gifted and incomparably versatile player who could be all things in all pictures.

I can't blame them for their curiosity.

And I feel that it is only fair to his memory to tell what the Man of a Thousand Faces looked like to his son.

My father was a kind man. Perhaps through overuse that word has lost something of its pristine strength. We have come to think of a kind man as one who helps elderly ladies across the street and gives coins to beggars.

My father was kind in a deeper sense than that. He loved people and he knew how to please them. Nothing gave him greater joy than helping other people along, whether they were lifelong friends or chance acquaintances.

And I don't mean merely assisting them financially or getting jobs for them, though heav-



The kind side of the Monster Man known to his son and revealed to our readers.



Remember the Frankenstein monster down at the lake with the flower petals and the little girl? Put Frankenstein make-up on Lon and you'd have almost the same scene, wouldn't you?



From the Collection of Lon Chaney Jr. himself, this exceedingly rare foto of his father as a Cavewoman.

Wait until
you
see

The

by story and
by
CARL
RENNETT

Shock

STARRING
LON CHANEY
UNIVERSAL JEWEL Directed by Lambert

Before EARTHQUAKE... before SAN FRANCISCO... before DELUGE... there was THE SHOCK! The "lent" earthquake shaker that shook up audiences in 1923.

en knows he was generosity itself in those respects. He gave unflaggingly of the far more precious gifts of sympathy and understanding.

Even at the height of his fame he still preserved his sincere and democratic attitude towards all persons with whom he came in contact. Success failed to destroy his standard of values. There was no time when he felt that he was too great to listen to the troubles of the lowest stagehand or give a kind word and a helping hand to a struggling extra.

At the same time, with his utter lack of affectation, he had the same kindly interest in the less poignant troubles of the greatest stars and was constantly the confidante of Hollywood's biggest names.

In later years, when the whole world knew him and wondered what he was like, he would spend hours talking to some beggar who had approached him for a handout and who frequently found himself, to his own immeasurable surprise, the recipient of a staggeringly magnificent sum.

And the friends of his tramping days! How he enjoyed chatting with them when they came to see him. No former fellow players were ever turned away from the lot on which Lon Chaney was working. He saw them all and talked to them all and somehow found means to help many of them on their way to belated success.

As for my own view of him, that is a matter of which I could never write calmly or dispassionately. Lon Chaney was always for me the greatest of all heroes, the personification of all that was fine and true.

He was my father.



Singapore Joe in **THE ROAD TO MANDALAY**, 1926.



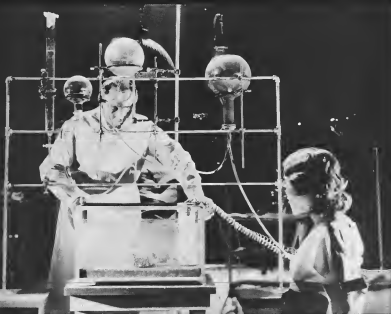
The Man of A Thousand Faces hardly recognizable as a bearded old man.



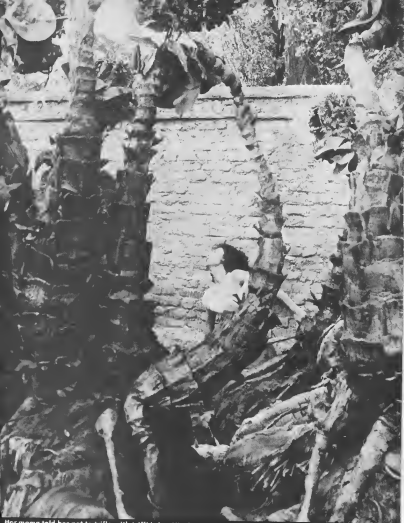
Len Chaney Sr. in Birdman characterization actually played by Olga Beclanova in **FREAKS**. Seen here in publicity foto with his famous director, Tad Browning.

YOU AXED FOR IT!

Wild about werewolves? Date on dinosaurs? Love Lon Chaney Sr.? Crazy about Colin Clive? Howl for Reddy McDowall? Then you've come to the right place. And nexttime maybe your name & request foto will be here—if you ask for it now on a postcard to Dr. Ax, FAMOUS MONSTERS, 145 E. 32 St., NYC, NY 10016.



Fay Wray can't make up her mind which was worse: to fall afoul of a Big Ape who wanted to peel her like a grape or a Mad Doc whose pet was a VAMPIRE BAT. Maybe RICHARD MULHERIN, PATRICK SCHMITT, RUSS BAKER, ROBERT PAUL VENKER, BILL GEORGE and/or JOE PITI can help her make her mind up. LIONEL ATWILL is the Mad Scientist menacing her.



Her mom told her not to trifle with triffids but Nicole Maury wouldn't listen and this is the screaming result as seen in John Wyndham's *DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS* and shown for MATTHEW REIMER, HAL NEWSOME, STEVEN DHUEY, ALEX WILLMS & JOEY HUFFMAN.

**YOU AXED
FOR IT!**



The Legendary LON CHANEY SR. as The Mad Doctor in THE MONSTER, a silent shudder movie, revived for MIKE "ERIK" LYNCH, ROBERT MARTINEZ, COLLEEN HAYDEN, KEN CERRI, MATT HOSTAK, BILL NELSON and in Loving Memory of the Late TAMMY HAJEWSKI.



T. Rex (not the rock group) vs. Brent O. Saurus in an action shot from DINOSAURUS (Universal 1964) rescued for prehistoricreature buffs PATRICK D'EMILE, NORMAN J. HICKEY, TED BURKE, SCOTT McRAE, JOHN HARDING & JAY RUSSELL.



a Paer Man's Golem—IT!—looks like he's carrying Psycho's mama, now just a skeleton of her former self, in Warner Bros. 1967 release. Shown for JDDY McDOWALL lovers SANDRA E. LEICHHMILLER, J.B. DAY, BRIAN ESSINGTON, DAVID JACKSON & LYLE WILLIAMS.



JACK PALANCE goes into his trance in THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE, a terrorvision version (ABC/TV 12 July 1968) for fans who have no overton to horror such as ED JOHNSON, PIERRE POULIOT, JACKIE GRANBERG, STUART ZEIGLEY, MARK DAVIS & LOREN ROMAIN.



A family portrait of THE ADDAMS FAMILY, autographed for fright 'n' fun, fear 'n' farce fans MARK HAGAN, MOISES MENDOZA, JOHN ESPOSITO, STEVE BANNOS, KARL POGUE & ROXANNE MUISE.

**YOU AXED
FOR IT!**

VINCENT PRICE fears rigor mortis in Diane Rigg in the final moments of **THEATRE OF BLOOD** (UA '73). Curtain raised again for WARREN DISBROW JR., LES ANDERSON, DORIS TAUGER, SHARON HORNERGER, SUSAN LONG, CORINNE SOUSA & GLENN HOWARD.



COLIN CLIVE! EDWARD VAN SLOAN! JOHN BOLES! And KING KARLOFF! All gone, alas, but never to be forgotten as Universal's 1931 masterpiece **FRANKENSTEIN** lives on for SALLY STARK, JOHN MYER, DAN MILLER 3d, MICHAEL HOLLAND, BRIAN O'DONNELL, SHERI WACHSTETTER, DAVID M. KEERL, RUSS WISHMAN & THOMAS SMITH.

DYNAMIC ACTION ADVENTURE COMIC BOOKS SUPERHERO HOBBY KITS!

Transform your room into a dynamic world of fantasy and adventure. People your shelves with superheroes. These 8" to 12" tall figures are molded from heavy duty "super" plastic. All kits come with complete instructions for assembly and an 8-page original comic plus a detailed background diorama. Glue the figure together, paint it, place it in front of its background and you will have a realistic 3-D display. Build all the kits. Make your room headquarters for the Superhero Legion! Order your exciting superhero hobby kit now!

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND ROBIN! TWO GREAT NEW KITS!



Superman, the man of steel! His youthful counterpart, Superboy! Batman, the nocturnal avenger! The Lone Ranger, riding again with his faithful Indian companion, Tonto! The awesome Hulk! The web-slinging Spiderman! And Tarzan, Lord of the jungle. First there were eight of these great hobby kits! Now there are ten! Announcing the arrival of two exciting new kits. Captain America, the most Super hero of them all! And Batman's Boy Wonder, Robin! They're new, they're exciting. And they can be yours!



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CAPT. AMERICA #24133/\$2.75



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THE HULK #2474/\$2.70



TARZAN #2473/\$2.70



TONTO #2475/\$2.70



THE LONE RANGER #2480/\$3.60

ORDER ALL TEN & OWN A SUPERHERO ARMY!

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THEY STARE AT YOU FROM THE COVERS. THEY HAUNT THE PAGES OF FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND. THEY PEER AT YOU FROM PHANTASTIC PHOTOS. THE ARTICLES ARE FILLED WITH THEM. THE HEADLINES SHOUT THEIR NAMES! WHOSE NAMES? DRACULA, BELA LUGOSI, THE BLACK LAGOON CREATURE, RAY HARRYHAUSEN, THE MOLE PEOPLE AND A NOTORIOUS CAST OF THOUSANDS.

FAMOUS MONSTERS



SEND FOR OUR MONSTERS...OR LET OUR MONSTERS SEND YOU! REMEMBER HORRIFIC PAST FAMOUS MONSTERS ISSUES? OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY SPECTACULAR? REMEMBER FEATURES ON BORIS KARLOFF, CHRISTOPHER LEE, PETER LORRE AND VINCENT PRICE? IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER THESE GREAT FEATURES, YOU PROBABLY MISSED THEM. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO ORDER BACK ISSUES OF FORRY JACKERMAN'S FM MAGAZINES.

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MONSTER GLOW PUZZLES

Assemble your own monster! It's easy! It's fun! It's what? Against the Law? Remember what happened to Dr. Frankenstein? Don't worry! These are PUZZLES and the only one who will be out to get you is your brother, if you assemble one of these glow in the dark monsters in his dark room. These full color 14-1/4" x 17-1/4" puzzles, containing over 300 pieces, are reproduced from FAMOUS MONSTERS cover art: FM #103's Creature, FM #104's School of Frankenstein and The Phantom from the 1958 "darkroom" series. They're scary! They glow in the dark! Perfect for A.C. they're scary!

BUY ALL THREE!



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PUZZLES OF THE UNDEAD



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from four night-
mares will slowly
materialize as you
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11-11-11 200 pages
Heavy bound pacific.
A useful for hand (and



THE ZOMBIE #2687/152 OF

GIGANTIC INSECT HOBBY KITS!

This isn't just another plastic hobby kit! It's an incredibly realistic series of devastating destruction that you can put together in diorama form. Full color, easy-to-assemble background, buildings, cars, figures, and of course, your terrifying Gigantic Insect all burst forth from their crush-resistant packages! All four Gigantic are scientifically accurate and highly detailed models enlarged several times their normal size. Fun and learning combine when you read about the natural history of these insects and see the biological charts. Paint them yourself in gruesome colors. Be prepared for the creepy-crawly invasion!

RAMPAGING SCORPION



The headline on the Daily Press reads "Citizens' Free from Knappe's Expense" that you won't get from this French Anarchist Commune because you aren't poor! If you paid it in late Monday morning's out-cries, does your attitude will not be false if a permanently level thing would? The cry-to-let-us income drops the public enemy in the world of demanding a brick building with its massive lid, something a vehicle and rendering other better citizens unfairly before against the violence struggle. www.1913-14.com

COLOSSAL TARANTULA



Remember the all-around hero the best-selling novel, "The Spider" Will and Wags Farabee is his cousin and just too even all & heady brother of of the best had his marriage with a female model who is a beautiful woman with power (Doris). Having escaped from his steel habitat in Tropical America, the Labyrinth of Conscience is built by the second man the South Island in and brother and control his surroundings in a new effort to escape the complex world of his life. The complex world of his life is built by the second man the South Island in and brother and control his surroundings in a new effort to escape the complex world of his life.

GIGANTIC WASP



Follow a sunny afternoon at the Funland Amusement Park. The children were glad to see parents from the roller coaster ride at the Funland. Suddenly, a large crowd of people gathered around the area and suddenly upon the unexpected victims. A large crowd of people gathered around the area and suddenly upon the unexpected victims. A large crowd of people gathered around the area and suddenly upon the unexpected victims.



HUGE MANTIS



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Pirates of the Caribbean HOBBY KITS

© Walt Disney Productions

HORRIFIC UNDEAD SKELETONS MOVE WITH ZAP ACTION



FATE OF THE MUTINEERS!—It quakes!! And a most terrifying tale it is, how One living pirate skeleton is sinking deeper and deeper into the merol Can his mate save him? Well, the live-wiring skeleton lives, and that's where the ZAP ACTION hero comes in, as before your startled blenders' eyes, the live one yanks his friend's soul from its SOKKETS! #2454 FATE OF THE MUTINEERS \$2.00



On the DEAD MAN'S RAFT, one clinging cove of cat-oan steers the cursed raft down the River Styx to the Land of the Dead! It looks like clear sailing all the way, until from out of the coffin pops up a second skeleton, snoring with ZAP-ACTION! The second skeleton SLAMS his dagger into a treasure map! A cursed sign from the Great Beyond to resume the lost quest for blood-tragedy! Ooohoooo! They realize, moving horror hit puts you Right There! Order #2452 DEAD MAN'S RAFT \$3.00



CONDEMNED TO CHAINS FOREVER in the eternal curse laid upon this marooned lug all bones, left behind on a swab-tree with but a barrel of rum and his fair share of some digests insurance. An eerie punishment! And what's worse, all he has is a cullies to fend off that hungry alligator who's dead-set on using the pirate skeleton's leg-bones for a toothpick! So he SWINGS his cutters down steadily on the gator's snout! #2453 CHAINS FOREVER TO CHAINS FOREVER \$2.00



"WOT HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER!"—cheers! Join the CAPTAIN VILLAIN himself with you hand he holds stiff his Jolly Roger pirate emblem flag, the d and skull & crossbones, as with his other arm, he waves his shining cutlery in ZAP-ACTION! Cursing the Red over that malicious & salty skeleton crew will get HIS share of the treasure, you'd better believe! Captain Rummy, you see, boards the whole operation, and orders about his phony crew! Order #2451 WOT HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER \$1.50



"DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!"—The Great Wides at the bloodthirsty Pirates of the Caribbean in the Sully Sixteenth Century, when the secret burial place of treasure in trees was protected by killing off but one of the men who turned it! Hooray the man who did the killing of his mate! One such honey-bread here spends forever and a day re-sucking that red blood in his life when he murdered his pirate pal, cackling at the name of this great ZAP-ACTION kit. Order #2450 DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES \$1.50

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KILLER GORILLA

Over 8" tall, this is an exciting hobby kit of one of the most powerful creatures ever to roam the earth. A four-foot giant will add a brutal touch of the jungle to your home. Instructions are included. Order #24200/\$2.98



KOMODO DRAGON

This is a reptile monster that really lives! Two, ten-foot long members with sharp teeth, the skin of Komodo, where his back and throat look as if he were a dragon. The kit is over 7" long, and features the dragon in all his grotesque glory. Order #24201/\$3.98

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Here's an incredible plastic model that glows in the dark! From "somewhere out there" it comes, a luminescent spaceship of alien invaders. This hobby kit is a big thirteen inches long when assembled. It comes complete with display stand, and carries a miniature scout ship in its launch deck. Also, the doors to the launch deck open so that the mini spaceship can be removed. Extremely detailed, each and every highlight stands out when you turn off the lights. Own an entire fleet! #2492/\$3.00

DELUXE RUBBER MONSTER MASKS

DISGUST YOUR FRIENDS & HORRIFY YOUR ENEMIES WITH THESE DELUXE FULL OVER THE HEAD & OVER THE TOP RUBBER MASKS!

These masks are really awful YUCCCHI! And that's just what they're supposed to be. Frightening! Terrible! And they can be yours. The prices are certainly right. These high quality heavy duty latex rubber masks come in a deluxe full over the head style and a style that covers the entire top of the head and face. They are realistically molded and painted in weird and terrible hues. Perfect to wear to costume parties, for amateur monster film extravaganzas. These masks fit loosely and are therefore comfortable enough to wear for long stretches at a time. And inexpensive enough that you can afford a different fright face for every occasion.



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NEW! FROM HOLLYWOOD!
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MASKS!

They fit the whole head. Sturdy flexible but unbreakable all-weather vinyl masks. Reasonably priced so you can buy 'em ALL! All great!



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FRANKENSTEIN DELUXE 1/2 HEAD PIECE!

Every remote control fan will know that the world's greatest headless man is made by Hollywood's Top Post Studios Now, Don Ford has created the FRANKENSTEIN 1/2 HEAD PIECE! If you have really creepy feelings, you can use it to keep yourself in a regular Karloff! This mask fits over your forehead and looks like you completely lost effect with make-up. A great way to scare your Order! Only \$25.95 (4.95)



FRANKENSTEIN WHOLE-HEAD

Now you can be the death of the party with this great mask! Here's the most budget-priced, take-along whole-head FRANKENSTEIN MASK! Absolutely authentic, from the wide, slanting-looking eyes to the bolts at the base of the neck! Your friends will dig you (and your gravel) when they see you in this mask! Specially designed by Hollywood's Don Ford Studios. Inexpensive and great! Order \$25.95 (2.95)



PHANTASMAGORIA SUPER BLACK LIGHT BULB!

Turn your room into a ray of black light with this new BLACK LIGHT BULB! Black light posters are the top thing of the 70's, and this powerful 75 Watt bulb is just the thing to bring out the intensity and weirdness in your Black Light posters. Filled with special gases that activate chemical color, you'll get hours of enjoyment from this super-special item. Order \$19.95 (12.95)



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SILENT DOG WHISTLE YOUR DOG WILL COME RUNNING WHEN HE HEARS IT!



Almost everyone (especially you yourself) when you hear a silent dog whistle! This amazing, mysterious device is a push on button that humans are unable to hear it, but dogs respond to it instantly! This specially made silent dog whistle features Acme Super-Sonic design to make it super-effective! You'll never again have to wonder when your dog is with him while at your disposal! Order \$25.95 (2.95)

GIANT 10-FOOT



BALLOON UNBELIEVABLY HUGE!

Great balloon blows up to gargantuan proportions! A giant ten foot in diameter, this balloon will be well-received by all those guests. The U.S. Air Force used to use these very type of balloons to test atmospheric pressures and more recently. Now available to YOU through a special purchase by Custom Company. Use your last balloon to take your own customers to monster proportions. A great way of making a crowd! Great low inventory cost with Genuine Neoprene rubber. \$25.00 (2.95)

SKULL CUP



**A BIG 4 1/2 INCHES TALL!
HORRIBLY FRIGHTENING!**
Tastily your first with this magnificent, terrifying SKULL CUP! It won't kill you, but just think of the fun you'll have drinking from this realistic replica of a genuine human skull! Made of fine ceramic, with a complete band of easy peeling! You'll scare the death out of friends and family! You just won't believe the reactions you'll get when you offer folks a stomach liner from this new-looking cup. Order a bunch and have a good time with your pals! Long-lasting and thoroughly washable, like all kinds of tough-looking. \$25.95 (2.95)

FIVE COLOSSAL MONSTER GAMES!

MONSTER'S CASTLE



A \$2.50 FIASCO!

Now you can own all five of the exciting Warren Monster Madness games! Find the monstrous lycanthrope in WEREWOLF! Amean army of fiendish beasties in the MONSTER MATCH! Run from hideous horrors in the MONSTER'S CASTLE! Become a misshapen horror in the CREEPY CRAWLY CASTLE! And duel mysterious menaces in Vampirella's enthralling game of CAPTURE! All five games come complete with instructions, spinners and playing surfaces. Big games. Thrill-packed fun for the entire family designed by Warren's own Bill DuBay. Order set of five games now. Only \$2.50 (2.50)

GREEPY CASTLE



MONSTER MATCH



WEREWOLF GAME



CAPTURE GAME



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FULL COLOR MONSTER MOVIES

8mm and SUPER 8mm FILMS BY HARRYHAUSEN IN BW OR COLOR

Now you can own these *Reign of the Super Bunnies* home movies, each one an acknowledged masterpiece of the fantasy genre, as created by Ray Harryhausen, the world's greatest special effectsman, these films feature some of the most astounding monsters and scenes of devastation ever filmed. And, if your journey with Jason in search of the Golden Fleece, or with Sinbad to the demonisle of Colossus, there's the added dimension of color. The colors full and crisp; so much so that you will feel as if you are in the midst of the action! Each film is a full 200' in length and runs a total of twelve minutes. A complete set of Jason or Sinbad adventures runs close to a full hour!

THE 4 FILMS OF 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD

CHAPTER ONE

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Color: 215/95/122001

CHAPTER 10

Sealand and his men reach Gervais, and scale the craggy peaks to the Roc's nest. There they do battle with the great two-headed bird, and Gribald is captured by the monster. If that weren't enough, a tyrant human skeleton is brought to life by Solusard in moments of the adventurous action. And there are still surprises to come. \$15.95/24.95/22.00 Color 915.55/22.00

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CHAPTER THREE
Society and Ideology

After being captured by the inhabitants of Cefiro, land of the Golden Fleece, Jason heads here. Then, in a diamond and gold studded crown, he leads the Fleece. He saved me it is the Hydra a seven headed dragon. It kills one of Jason's sons... and then years after the hero, Hercules, slaying it. \$19.95/\$23.92 Color: \$29.95/\$33.96

CHAPTER FOUR

Jason and his men grab the fleeing and run off their way is barred, first, by a flaming wheel from the sky... and second by an army of killer skeletons warriors. These grow from the teeth of the dead fly die. And the more skeletons battle Jason and his men in an incredible battle. Two men die. **R/R** 14.95 / 22811
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TROG



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IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE



Five Broadway's classic sci-fi tale becomes an incredible motion picture. As these trailers on earth, and wanders each people in order to reveal the ship. All goes well until one man discovers the alien and confronts the strange being. The last of the B-movie is happening! Thrills aplenty!

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"FM, I LOVE YOU"

Last summer I went to Columbus to see Vincent in *Process* (and it was fantastic). I met a man (he worked at the theater) who, when he saw my copy of "A Pictorial History of Horror Movies," which I brought for Mr. Price to sign, asked to see it. I let him, of course, and he began to talk about when he was a boy and reading FM! He began to talk and up the steps came 2 other boys and their mother, who said they had overheard us talking and couldn't resist coming up as we were talking about their favorite subject. It turned out they read FM too!

In 113 there was a letter from some crazy person named Robt. Kline who put down 106. Now, I missed 106, unfortunately, but it couldn't be bad, at least not that bad, and anyway he put down other FMs too and reprints. I would be happy to see anything you reprint, even an ad. You are the first, finest & always the best. If it weren't for FM, the full moon on truck-or-treat wouldn't have meant anything at all to me. And what would I read in the bloodbath while waiting for PSYCHO to come around?

LEIGH HARBIN
Parkerburg, W.Va.

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RICHARD H. LOFTIN

POLISH JOKE

#114 was wonderful. I've read other monster mags but they couldn't polish your claw.
DAVID CURRY
Potomac, Mo.

NOT HUMAN

I tried those other cheap monster magazines but I would rather have 1 of FM than 10 of ANY other. I think your covers get better & better. Gogus is truly a great painter. I am eagerly awaiting your 200th issue.

RUSS WOOTEN
(Address missing)

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MICHAEL RASO

IRE OF A VAMPIR

In the interests of your readers I wish that you, Editor Ackerman, would set the record straight as to where you stand on the subject of the great foreign fantasy films. In your article *Film Museum #1* you praise delicate & subtly horrifying films such as *CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI*, *LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE* and, most notably, *METROPOLIS*. However, in the same article you write off one of the best films of 1932 as a bore. That film, in case your "aging memory" fails you, is *VAMPIR*. I for one was astounded that you, obviously a knowledgeable man, could denounce a classic like *VAMPIR*. This was the movie that proved the inspiration of Val Lewton. *VAMPIR* was the predecessor of films such as *THE CAT PEOPLE* and *ISLE OF THE DEAD*. I defy you to denounce these 2 films. Are you certain that you saw *VAMPIR*? Come on, FJA! Stop telling your readers how good *METROPOLIS* is. Sure it was probably the best movie you've ever seen but surely it isn't the only fantasy that you have ever seen. Stop catering to an 11-16 year age bracket and start publishing some sensible articles, more like your recent feature on *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD*. Don't cover a film like *THE EXORCIST* if you can't handle it.

DAVID BATTAMS
Ontario, Canada



I have seen *VAMPIR* perhaps 3 times and do not intend to see it any more. To me it's a bore. If it inspired Val Lewton to do *THE CAT PEOPLE* then I have great reason to be indebted to it for I loved the Simone Simon shocker and shall continue to see it whenever I can. On the subject of where I stand on the great foreign fantasy films, in addition to my already expressed views I hold in high regard *NOFERATU*, *FAUST*, *SIEGFRIED*, *J'ACCUSE*, *FF1*, *GOLO WOMAN IN THE MOON*, the 3 major *GOLEMS*, *HIGH TREASON*, *THE GHOUL* and *THE CLAIR-*

VOYANT; whereas I was not overly impressed with any of the 3 versions of *ALRAUNE*, nor *ALITA* (except for the Martian sequences), *THE STUDENT OF PRAGUE*, the silent *FIN GU MONGE* and *ALGOA* (a completely incomprehensible film). I liked Paul Wegener in the *STRANGE CASE OF CAPT. RAMPER*, and Fritz Lang's *LILIOM*. Dreadful duds, to me, were *HOMUNCULUS*, *FIN GU MONGE* (sound) and, even tho it starred a great favorite of mine, Conrad Veidt, I regretfully derived no pleasure at all from *THE HANDS OF ORLAC* nor did the *Metropolis* robotrix, Brigitte Helm, do anything for me as *Antinea*, the *QUEEN OF ATLANTIS*. What can I say after I say I'm sorry I wasn't entertained by *VAMPIR*? I would be a hypocrite to say otherwise. To answer another of your questions, no *METROPOLIS* is not the only fantasy I have ever seen; I have, in addition to the aforementioned, seen quite a few since 1923, including the silent *ONE GLORIOUS DAY*, *LOST WORLD*, *7 FOOTPRINTS TO SATAN*, *LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT*, *THE CAT & THE CANARY*, *THE MAN WHO LAUGHS*, *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, *THE WEARY DEATH*, *GAITE'S INFERNO*, *SKY SHIP*, *FEET OF CLAY*, *THE MAGICIAN* and several others; and, among the more obscure talkies, *THE TERROR* (now apparently lost), *THE UNHOLY 3*, *IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE*, *6 HOURS TO LIVE*, *MYSTERY ISLAND*, *LIFE RETURNS*, *TURN BACK THE CLOCK*, *CONDEMNED TO LIVE*, *THE SCOUNDREL*, *HELLEVISION*, *TRANSATLANTIC TUNNEL*, *SUPERNATURAL*, *HERR DER WELT*, *THE OLD DARK HOUSE*, *THEY CAME TO A CITY*, *THUNDER ROCK*, *MYSTERY OF LIFE* and probably about 1000 others in the past 50 years.

WANTED! More Readers Like



GILBERT OLIVAREZ

THUMBS DOWN

Film Museum #1 was the only bad article in issue 111.
ERIC SCHULZ
Racine, Wisc.

WANTED! More Readers Like



KEVIN CARR

A PAIN SHOWER FROM SPAINHOWER

It does seem that your magazine has become the epitome of conceit in the last 2 or 3 issues. The calibre of your material & your style of writing has gone down considerably on the scale of taste. *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD* was a cruddy filmbook. The movie was, well, so-so, but your rendering of the classic (?) left a lot to be desired. Stridworthy failed to convey the squamy feeling you got on the edge of your seat, concentrating only on the story outline. Another dud was *MADHOUSE*. That was like watching the middle of a movie for 5 minutes, then trying to decipher what's happening.

#110 was a heck of a lot better. The filmbook on *THE GHOUL* was a long awaited goodie and worth the \$1.25 I paid.

But the stinker of the decade was your #111. That article by Paul Clemens, *THE EXORCIST*, was pure yecch. Were you more concerned with debating with Clemens by belting in, or putting out a decent article? Also, why were there so many pictures of Editor Ackerman in 111? No offense but he's not the type who poses for *COSMOPOLITAN*!

Re "Epitome of Conceit"—I meant just that. In 111 you say, "We do indeed feel FM is not only getting older, it's getting better" and you said of Gogus' cover, "Sensational!" Well, sensational is the word. So is disgusting.

But far is fair. Your *NOFERATU*, *ZARDOZ*, *TRAIL OF DRACULA* and *HALL OF FAME* were all exceptionally good. So what's happening?

MARK SPAINHOWER

San Diego, Calif.

True, I am not the type who poses for *Cosmopolitan*... but you should catch the centerfold of me in *The Geri-Lo Gazette*. It was the publisher's decision, not mine, to run so many pictures of me. I don't know WHAT he has against humanity.—FJA

WANTED! More Readers Like



RICHARD B. SHULL
(Who signed this photo while visiting the Ackermans in their home. To Mr. Ackerman, You make me feel at home!)

WHAT HE SPIED IN 'THE SPIDER'

I was just watching this movie on TV and I discovered something very interesting. The name of the movie was THE SPIDER and it was made by Bert Gordon about 1958. And do you know how I know that? Well, I tell you. In the movie (you've probably seen the picture) there is a giant spider going around raising Cain—you know the old bit. Well, this teenager calls up the sheriff because he loaned his car to someone and they haven't returned with it yet. Well, the funny thing about this is that the kid who called the sheriff was reading a magazine before he called and you could see what the name of it was if you looked closely. And do you know what it was? Right! FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #1! I couldn't believe it. Please tell me if I'm right.

O. BURROWS
Boston, Mass.

You were absolutely right. Congratulations on your keen eyesight. Did you know the spider was played by Jack Webb? Neither did we. Neither did he. Guess it's time for us to go spin another yarn.

WANTED! More Readers Like



HIRDKAZU

A PASTOR'S PRAISE (Kids, Show Mom & Pap!)

I very am pleased to say that your magazine is one parents, youth pastors (which is what I am etc. don't have to worry about the material kids are reading. I have practically all your magazines and am pleased to say I have never found anything offensive.

REV. CURTIS BAILEY
Memphis, Tenn.

FOR THE BIRDS

Regarding the fan in 114 who called the Editor guilty of over-enthusiasm regarding the Metropolis robotrix and in general. Let me tell you something. Don't let these birds bother you. I have been getting flak for 12 years on my enthusiasm for Lugosi. I get 2 reactions—either they look on me as a complete idiot, being nuts over a dead star, or they are it raves over my "colorful" personality. i.e., if I go bananas over this Gothic-Hungarian, emotive dead actor I must be vastly special & fascinating. The latter is nice to be regarded as but this is not why I continue my admiration for Mr. Lugosi. I AM an enthusiast over things I love. I think enthusiasm—the ability to react emotionally & spontaneously to even the most mundane of things—is one of life's greatest gifts. Rather than being a sign of immaturity, it represents people who are vibrant, sensitive, vital in love with people & life. The ability such as yourself, who has lived 50-odd years, to become awed & excited over the robotrix, means you have the gift of wonder &

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imagination. Surely a sign of continued youthfulness in spirit & body—rare qualities in most people who have become jaded & cynical by 25, much less 50 or so! Perhaps FM should have a balance of more dryness—BUT—I think the seriousness underneath more than makes up for the occasional lapses. So I say to you, Editor Forry—NEVER lose your awe at things grand & beautiful. So tell Mr. Hanke that he's probably 15 going on 90 while you re—what, 55?—going on 25.

Re Japanese Monsters, I have always been fascinated by the way their films are a curious combo of Japanese myth & Western technological horrors. The Japanese creatures seem to be treated with respect—akin to fairy tale beasts. This, combined with Japan's memory of OUR de-

struction, makes an interesting psychological sidelight. Godzilla has always frightened me more than any other "creature" film. Kong was silly-putty compared with that behemoth!

Lugosiincerely,
BARBARA HILL
Hollywood

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